(b) if so, by when and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these lines are essential particularly in the context of the commissioning of two more units at the Kolaghat Power Plant and for smooth running passenger trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) A survey has just been carried out for construction of additional Railway lines from Santragachi to Kharagpur. Survey report is under examination. Further decision would depend on results of survey and availability of resources in the coming years. No specific proposal has been received or is under consideration regarding Kolaghat Power Plant. Passenger trains are however running smoothly.

Double line to Bandel Thermal Power Station, West Bengal

1500. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bandel Thermal Power Station, West Bengal is provided with a single line for coal wagon movement;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider constructing double line for smooth movement of coal wagon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Track network of Eastern and South Eastern Railways

1501. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider expanding of the track network of the Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway to facilitate the movement of coal wagons to the Kolaghat Power Plant and two other major power projects in the Offing at Bakreswar and Balagarh in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge

1502. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi narrow gauge into broad gauge has been included in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, by when the above conversion work is likely to be taken up and approximate period by which the work would be completed; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof and the amount sanctioned for this purpose as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) The section Latur-Kurduwadi has been included in Phase I of the action plan to convert MG/NG lines to BG. This phase will cover the VIII & IX plan periods. The work will be taken up in the coming years during this period subject to availability of resources. Estimated amount will be worked out at the time of taking up the work.

Upgrading and Promotional opportunities for Wireless Operators

1503. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a long-pending demand has been lying with Railways regarding upgradation and promotional opportunities for the Wireless Operators in the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agreement entered into with the Wireless Operators in 1984 has not been implemented so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?